



MCG Executive and General Meeting.

Monday 13th February 2012.

MCG Office: Unit 13 Cassidy Arcade, 72-76 Monaro St. Queanbeyan.

1. Opening.

The meeting was opened at 5:34 pm by Lynton Bond, (President), in the Chair. A warm welcome was extended to all present.

2 Attendance / Apologies.

In attendance were Lynton Bond, Tom Baker, John Bruggeman, Karen Williams, Jim Arnold, Don Fraser, Margaret Piper and Dr. Stephen Skinner.
Apologies were received from Maryke Booth.

3 Minutes of 12th December 2011.

Motion: Karen Williams / Jim Arnold
"That the minutes be accepted".

Carried.

4 Business Arising. Action Table and The Poplars (Tom).

- (a) Preliminary review of Molonglo Catchment Strategy is awaiting attention.
- (b) Small Grants Project Funding: guidelines need finalisation.
- (c) GVESH0 Funding: still waiting for outcome, re. VOIP telephony etc.
- (d) List of environment events in April 2012 passed on to ASOC.
- (e) Corporate Credit Cards application went in on 12th January, followed up on 12th February, still no reply.
- (f) Effects of Starane on frogs, no information available at this point. Jim will write to Dow Chemicals for information.
- (g) CFOC grants for SSF project funding, application went in on 7th February.
- (h) The Poplars: MCS did come to the party with funding for spraying of St. Johns Wort, \$2,000, which was matched by MCG. Spraying of various weeds in the vicinity of endangered species was done by QLC, carefully. This is the first big effort on St Johns Wort on this unusually important, privately owned grassland on Lanyon Drive. Funding was not applied for through NSW Enviro Trust as amount required was below minimum for funding. People in adjacent Jerrabomberra are doing a submission for funding and lobbying council for a proper boundary fence on their side of the block.

5 Correspondence List.

In

- (a) UMCCC Membership invoice.
- (b) Request for support for Peter Cullen Trust Fellowship.
- (c) 32 enquiries for Coordinator position, resulting in 6 applications.

Out

- (a) Letter of Offer for Coordinator position.

- (b) Application to CFOC for more Sustainability on Small Farms (SSF2).
- (c) Acquittal for ACT Environment Grant Project, *Seeing Grasslands*.
- (d) Invoices for 2nd Instalment CFOC Catchment Coordination, Waterwatch Coordination and Biodiversity Monitoring.

6 President's Reports - Lynton Bond. New and outstanding business.

- (a) See report sent out by email.
- (b) Accept report as read.
- (c) MCG Coordinator Position: 6 applications received from 32 enquiries resulting in a shortlist of 3. Karen Williams, John Feint and Lynton sat on the selection panel, and made an offer. Lynton is still negotiating the hours as the successful applicant can only work 4 days per week, having other commitments on Fridays. It's essential that we have someone in the office 5 days per week.
- (d) Monaro Landscape Connectivity: doing workshops in the Carwoola/Captain's Flat area in April/May. K2C is applying to Landcare Australia for \$100,000 funding for weeds management and awareness in alpine areas.
- (e) CLA: Being overseen by Tammy Spackman and working with Tanya Noakes and Shelley Swain re. Biodiversity Fund connectivity. Project has been split in two, Molonglo River Corridor including NSW, and ACT woodlands (submitted separately by TAMS).
- (f) UMCCC: Lynton was unable to attend as he was at ALA web development training.
- (g) BOB: Meeting tomorrow, the last meeting before acquittal of the project. An extension of time will be sought to complete the planting list and prepare a new resident's information pack.
- (h) Website: The new theme set up by Marion is more useable than the previous one (more manageable with each groups own website embedded in the theme). Next step is to finalise how it is structured and transfer what we have now into it. Once presentable Lynton will ask Marion to give a sample for us to review.
- (i) Submissions: Palerang and now Queanbeyan LEP. Big issues are in the Qbn. LEP, eg rezoning of land.

7 Vice President's Report – Tom Baker.

- (a) Along the Molonglo: Still rolling along nicely and now a part of the heritage program. Opening at the CSIRO Discovery Centre on Tuesday 24th April at 6:00 pm and running to 3:00 pm on Sunday 29th April. More details on our website.
- (b) K2C: Tom is now sitting on the K2C Exec. Committee and the K2C Incorporated Committee. The State Government has now committed 3 years funding as part of the Great Eastern Ranges Initiative, to be used through K2C and similar regional organizations re biodiversity and climate change agendas.

8 Treasurer's Report – Maryke Booth.

- (a) Presented by Lynton upon Maryke's absence.
- (b) Documents emailed through.
- (c) We have received the second instalment of coordinator funding.
- (d) \$120,000 in the maxi a/c, \$5,000 in the working a/c at the moment.

9 MCG Coordinator's Report – Andrew Westcott.

- (a) Presented by Lynton.
- (b) Andy had a furious 3 weeks in January preparing for the handover to the new coordinator, tying up loose ends on the Sustainable Horse Management project, running projects and finalising grant acquittals. He also ran two workshops, Michelago where 7 people turned up and Wamboin where 8 people attended. Andy had 7 workshops planned but did 8 overall.

- (c) BOB: Environment ACT project, final meeting tomorrow. The new information leaflet for residents in new suburbs is 6 months behind schedule. The text is almost complete and we are waiting for images for the leaflet.
- (d) Seeing Grasslands: Acquittal done but underspent. Some booklets have been printed with left over funds, 5 large books and 8 smaller ones, to be used as gifts of appreciation.

10 Waterwatch Coordinator's Report – Dr. Stephen Skinner.

- (a) See report circulated at meeting.
- (b) Not a lot to report.
- (c) Stephen was again in the Queanbeyan Age doing an interview on frogs and how they help to keep the river catchment healthy.
- (d) M-CHiP and Frogs: Not surprisingly surveys confirm that rural areas are good for frogs but urban areas are not so good for them. Weston Creek and Sullivans Creek don't have frogs as there is no suitable habitat, too many predators and land development within their catchments. The 2011 Frogwatch Census is available on the MCG website.
- (e) World Wetlands Day: Was scheduled for Thursday 2nd February at Dickson Wetland but it poured down rain and the day was cancelled.
- (f) Ginini Flats rare plant: A rare plant, *Phebalium* from Kosciusko was found on the flats recently by Stephen.

11 Members Report – Tom Baker.

- (a) Clean Up Australia Day: The location this year is the Morisset Low Level Crossing.

12 Members Report – Don Fraser.

- (a) Don spoke about his and Debbie's recent camping holiday at Pebbly Beach. Frogs, red bellied black snake, no electricity, an excellent place to stay at.
- (b) However he did miss the Burra LC meeting. It was reported that discussion included rabbit control and the pines around the oval and the danger they now present to the public. An article in the Burra Intermittent objected to their removal by Palerang Council.
- (c) M2G: Actew Paddock Plant Field Day. A look at grass types in a paddock setting, interesting. African Love Grass and St. Johns Wort a worry to landholders.

13 Members Report – Jim Arnold.

- (a) FOAB: AGM next week. The contractors spraying the paddocks for St. Johns wort didn't finish the job as they ran out of funds. Rangers are trying to work out how to finish the job. Last Sunday a new ranger couldn't get into the paddock (?!). Jim is using a backpack spray in the Snow Gums Paddock and has nearly completed the job. The good season is exhausting the seed bank in the soil. He is also spraying Patterson's Curse and Fleabane and scything around the boundary (just buys time but spraying is needed).
- (b) NSA: Peter Andrews is now living in Gawler, South Australia.
- (c) UMCCC meeting: A bloke attended who knew about rusting bolts in Scrivener Dam (a worry!). There was a rumbling about willow debris now that Googong Dam is full. The ACT NRM Aboriginal Facilitator Jo Donovan has left and a replacement for her is needed. Rosemary Purdy conducted a Strategic Planning reassessment in the afternoon session (Jim reckons it was a waste of time).
- (d) Ferals Road-show: Methods of destroying vermin explained. 2 DVDs and a thumb-drive were issued and are available from Jim.

14 Members Report – Karen Williams.

- (a) Oaks Estate River Project: Weed spraying is now completed and the vegetation is looking sick and dying. Elms and Lombardy Poplars have been left untouched at this stage. An OEPA newsletter is due shortly with warnings about dieback from poisoning. The long-

term aim is a pathway along the river. This weeks Chronicle will contain an article by Karen about the project.

15 Members Report – John Bruggeman.

- (a) Oaks Estate River Project: I've completed the 2nd stage of photo monitoring for the project, prior to poisoning beginning.
- (b) FOG: A working bee was held on Capitol Hill on 5th February for weed removal. Cootamundra Wattle was one of the targets. A lot of weeding was completed but more weeding is needed. I conducted a GPS survey of ALG and Blackberry infestations in the project area in readiness for a spraying program.
- (c) Friends of Stirling Park: A meeting is to be held on 21st February to try to establish a "friends" group for this area, which contains endangered species, Aboriginal and Colonial cultural heritage and the camps and village sites for the builders of early Canberra. The meeting will be facilitated by FOG.

16 Business.

- (a) Peter Cullen Trust Leadership Program 2012: UMCCC asks if member groups would provide funding for the Peter Cullen Trust's *Science to Policy* Leadership Program. Last year MCG contributed \$1,000 to the PCT's program. Lynton thinks it was money well spent (agreed), and likewise again this year if we can find another Andy "type" candidate. UMCCC would prefer it if employees stayed with their organization for a longer period or not move on to more permanent positions (usually Govt. jobs). The leadership program we sponsored last year (towards the Wentworth Group re issues to do with NRM) is almost the equivalent of a post-doctorial certificate. It propels candidates to getting biological and geological science out to the general public. Around February PCT and UMCCC will call for candidates for the program. Sponsorship buys us access to PCT high flyers and Friends of PCT (well known high profile people).

Motion: Karen Williams / Tom Baker

"That MCG provide sponsorship of \$1,000 for the Peter Cullen Trust Leadership Program 2012".

Carried.

- (b) Majura Parkway Development: The parkway is to be moved further to the west, taking up arable soil. One representative for landholders showed up and Sarah Sharp was also absent. Disappointing!
- (c) Confirmation of Meeting Schedule: Our normal meeting day fell on just about every public holiday this year so the dates have been shuffled around to keep meetings roughly four weeks apart.
- (d) Office Equipment: One month of coordinators salary will be unspent which means that we can afford some new equipment for the office. 2 x laptop computers @ \$900 each, and a new phone @ \$100, under \$2,000.
- (e) Rabbit Control Program: Three workshops are to be held, Carwoola, Royalla and Burra. Monitoring will be conducted 3 evenings before each workshop and assessment will follow extermination and control of havens for rabbit burrows.

17 Next Meeting.

Exec. & General Meeting: Monday, 19th March 2012, 5:00 – 6:30 pm.
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18 Closure.

The meeting was closed at 6:34 pm.

Action By	Details	Start Date	Due Date	Completed
LB/AW	Preliminary review of Molonglo Catchment Strategy	13/12/10		In Progress
LB	Investigate call forwarding as an option in order to implement VOIP phone system.	21/03/11	11/07/11	In Progress
AW	Review MCG Small Grants Project Funding process	11/04/11	11/07/11	In Progress
JA	Investigate effects of Starane on frogs, Jim to write to Dow Chemicals for info.	13/02/12	ASAP	In Progress
LB	Purchase new gear for office	13/2/12	19/3/12	Completed
LB	Forward MCG info to John for Friends of Stirling Park	13/2/12	14/2/12	Completed

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 (Chairman)

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 (Date)